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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/665,668

09/20/2000

Larry B. Gray

JJI-49

5527

7590

03/18/2009

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EXAMINER

BUI, VY Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3773

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/18/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/665,668	Applicant(s) GRAY ET AL.	
	Examiner Vy Q. Bui	Art Unit 3773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>1/12/09</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The amendment filed 7/6/2007 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention.

The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: page 6, line 9, the recitation : -- ***As will be seen herein, the waves described in the current stent are curved, without any straight sections.***--.

The Examiner respectfully would like to bring to the Applicant's attention that there is no disclosure in the original written specification to specify that ***"the waves described in the current stent are curved, without any straight sections"***.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kleshinski et al. (5,746,765).

As to claim 21, Kleshinski-'765 (Fig. 2-5 and 13) shows stent 14. Stent 14 comprises wire 4 defining longitudinal wave struts with links 6 to form a tubular stent structure. The frequency of the struts at the two ends of the stent is greater than the frequency of the struts in the intermediate section of the stent (Fig. 4).

As to claim 22, Kleshinski-'765 (Fig. 5) shows stent 14 having links 6 axially displaced in the manner as recited in the claim.

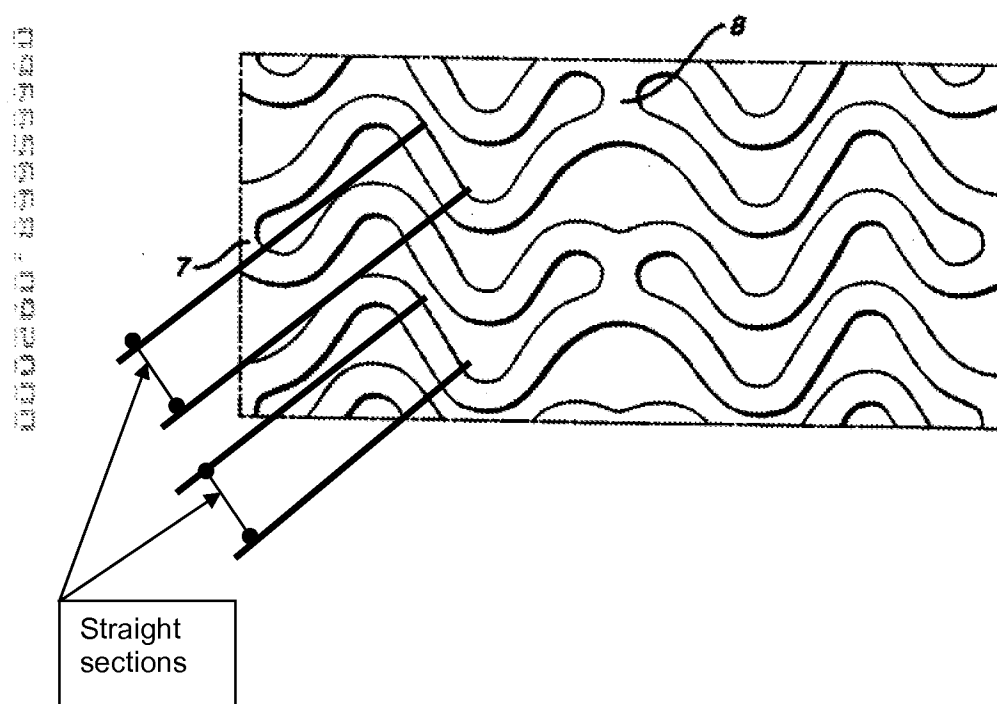
As to claims 21-22, the disclosure and Fig. 13 of Kleshinski-'765's reveals wave struts of Kleshinski-'765's stent 14 are made by bending wire 4 around pins 50, and from Fig. 13, pins 50 have circular cross sections, therefore wire 4 will form curved sections at locations where wire 4 is bent around pins 50. Alternatively, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have cross sections of pin 50 of circular configuration rather than a square configuration, at least for this circular configuration would provide less stress concentration at the locations where wire 4 is bent.

At least Kleshinski-'765's stent 14 includes curved section where struts 6 are bent around pins 50 (Fig. 13). It is clearly shown in Fig. 13 that Kleshinski-'765's stent 14 includes straight sections where struts 6 abut each other along a distance between two pins 50.

However, Fig. 2 and 6 (Fig. 2 is reproduced below) of the present invention also show curved

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and straight sections, therefore the stent of the present invention includes curved and straight sections as well as Kleshinski-'765's stent 14.

FIG. 2

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/27/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the new limitation the Applicant have requested to insert into the original written specification: “ -- *As will be seen herein, the waves described in the current stent are curved, **without any straight sections**.* --”, the Applicant argued that (see Remarks/Arguments, paper 1/12/2009): “The Examiner appears to further object under 35 USC § 132(a) to the amendment which was filed on July 6, 2007. Now, all doubt should be removed as to the amendment, or its support. That is, there is now only the recitation that in **Figures 2 and 6**, there are disclosed certain struts that define waves which are continuous curves without any straight sections. The figures have not been modified from the original disclosure, and so have been supported throughout the pendency of this application. And, the amendment made to the specification is merely for clarifying purposes. No new matter has been added, and so any rejection under 35 USC § 132(a) is inappropriate.”.

The Examiner would like to assert that this newly added limitation to the original specification is a new subject matter because:

1. This newly added limitation was simply not in the original written specification.
2. Even in Fig. 2 and 6 as mentioned by the Applicant, there are straight sections in the structure of the stent of the present invention. Fig. 2 and 6 are indeed support that waves in this present invention will include curves and straight sections (see for example: Figs. 2, 4, 6 and 7 with curved and straight sections).

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In short, the Examiner respectfully asserts that Kleshinski-'765 stent includes waves formed by curved and straight sections and meets the limitations as recited in the claims either by anticipation or obviousness as presented in the above rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vy Q. Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-4692. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on 571-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vy Q. Bui/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773